

REMARKS

The PTO Communication mailed December 1, 2003, states that applicant's Reply filed September 22, 2003, is non-responsive because the claims submitted in that Reply are directed to non-elected subject matter.

Applicant respectfully disagrees, as claims 6-10 are directed to the elected subject matter, although the preamble of claims 6-10 (newly added on September 22, 2003) is not the same as the preamble of original elected claims 1-4. Thus, applicant's position is that the new claims 6-10 are directed to the same invention as original elected claims 1-4, even though the preamble in these claims as originally filed is different.

Nevertheless, the issue need not be discussed further at this time, as the amendments presented above simply change the preamble of claims 6-10 to the preamble of original claims 1-4.

Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the Examiner's commentary during a telephone conference on this matter on December 22, 2003, at which time the Examiner indicated that the amendment presented above, i.e. the amendment changing the language of the preamble of claims 6-10 to the original preamble language of claims 1-4, would resolve

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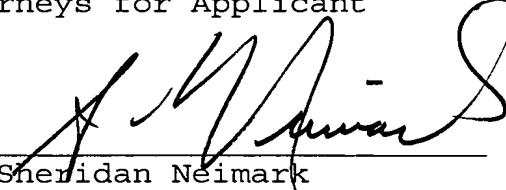
the issue, and would be acceptable. Applicant is proceeding in reliance thereof.

Applicant now respectfully awaits the results of a further examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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